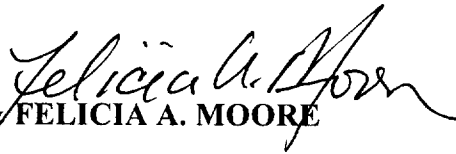


**A RESOLUTION****BY COUNCILMEMBERS C. T. MARTIN & FELICIA A. MOORE**

**THAT THE MAYOR IS HEREBY URGED TO IMMEDIATELY SEND A LETTER OF CLARIFICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, CLARIFYING THAT THE LETTER PREVIOUSLY SENT BY THE MAYOR'S OFFICE WAS NOT INTENDED TO CONSTITUTE AN OFFICIAL CITY WITHDRAWAL OF LOCAL APPROVAL FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT FUNDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, Inc. ("Task Force") did submit an application seeking Emergency Shelter Grant Funds ("ESG") from the State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs ("DCA"); and

**WHEREAS**, DCA makes the final determination as to the awarding of ESG Funds;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Atlanta did review and determine that the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, Inc. was eligible for funding based on consistency with the City of Atlanta 2005-2009 Local Consolidated Plan and on local approval of the Task Force's participation in the Homeless Provider Networks and on participation in the Local Continuum of Care as indicated in Exhibit A; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs has denied the applicant a funding award based on a misinterpretation of a letter sent by the City of Atlanta as an official withdrawal of local approval rather than an expression of certain concerns regarding shelter operations at the Peachtree and Pine Shelter as indicated in the letter referenced as Exhibit B; and

**WHEREAS**, the Atlanta homeless community and the citizens of the City of Atlanta would greatly benefit from the granting of funds from DCA.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA** that the Mayor is hereby urged to immediately send a letter of clarification to the Department of Community Affairs, clarifying that the letter previously sent by the Mayor's Office (attached as Exhibit B) was not intended to constitute an official City withdrawal of local approval for Emergency Shelter Grant Funds.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Municipal Clerk is directed to send (fax/e-mail or Priority Mail) a copy of this resolution to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

**AND FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED** that all resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby waived in this instance only.

**Attachments A and B*****Certification of 1) Consistency with Consolidated Plan, 2) Local Approval, 3) Participation in Homeless Provider Networks, and 4) Participation in the Local Continuum of Care***

To the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Regarding:

2007 DCA Project Title: **Task Force for the Homeless Housing Assistance Program**

Agency Name: **Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, Inc.**

Program/Activity Address: **477 Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30365**

Program/Activity Type: **Housing referral/counseling/placement**

Total Daily Capacity: **15**  
Demographic group(s) served:  
**All groups except unaccompanied minors**

Special needs group(s) served:  
**None targeted**

- 1) Based on a review of the Request for City Certification submitted to the City of Atlanta for the Supportive Housing Application to be submitted to DCA by the Applicant, the undersigned certifies that the program and activities proposed appear to be consistent with the City of Atlanta's Consolidated Plan for 2005-2009.
- 2) Based on a review of the Request for City Certification submitted to the City of Atlanta for the Supportive Housing Application to be submitted to DCA by the Applicant, please be advised that the program proposed appears to meet all local planning requirements and is "approved" for funding by DCA.
- 3) This is to certify that the above-named applicant actively participates in local collaborative mechanisms to coordinate the provision of housing and/or supportive services for homeless persons within our community.
- 4) This is to certify that the above-named applicant is an active participant in the local Continuum of Care Plan developed by our community.

Certification is conditioned or explained as follows:

NA

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Jocelyn Ross**  
**Director, City of Atlanta Office of Grants Management**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**4-3-07**

Exhibit B



## CITY OF ATLANTA

Office of the Mayor  
55 Trinity Avenue, SW  
Suite 2400  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
404-330-8100

Shirley Franklin  
Mayor

Greg Pridgeon  
Chief of Staff

May 16, 2007

Mr. John Bassett  
60 Executive Park South, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Mr. Bassett,

I am writing to elaborate on the City of Atlanta's position on one of the applicants to the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless - Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, Inc. ("Task Force") which operates its facility commonly known as Peachtree-Pine ("P&P facility").

Since adoption of the City's current 2004-2009 Local Consolidated Plan ("Plan"), each year the City has issued a Certification of Consistency with this Plan for the activities conducted by the Task Force at the P&P shelter. We did so this year with much reluctance. The City is increasingly concerned about two things. One, we believe our own review process could benefit from stronger Plan thresholds for measuring consistency. Two, we do not believe the P&P facility complies with our overall Consolidated Plan or with the Regional Commission's 10-year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, which is helping to guide our planning efforts.

Under the current certification review process, the City determines whether a particular agency's activity meets at least one of the objectives for homelessness under the Plan. Coupled with a zoning verification, this determination is sufficient under our process for an activity to be deemed "consistent" and thus for the providing agency to receive a Certificate. We intend to review and refine our Plan, so that in the future, all agencies will have to substantially comply with the Plan and will have to do so in a quality manner that demonstrates results.

To illustrate our point in this case, the P&P facility technically meets one of our objectives of "supporting sheltering and service options for difficult-to-serve chronic homeless population." However, we do not believe the shelter is consistent with any of the remaining five objectives for homeless services and facilities. These include, programs for: 1) well-run emergency and transitional residences; 2) homeless families and children; 3) supportive services that enable homeless to attain stability; 4) capital projects that create or enhance treatment facilities; and 5) aftercare services. Furthermore, we are

concerned about the rate of progress the P&P facility makes with their clients, in helping those men in their transition to self-sufficiency as provided in the Plan.

The Task Force's overall approach at the P&P facility continues to be in conflict with what we are learning, nationwide, on what helps our homeless citizens get back on the road to self-sufficiency. Both the Mayor's Regional Commission on Homelessness and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness are emphasizing a Housing First model, in which we get homeless persons placed into safe and decent housing that is appropriate to their needs and then work with them, through intensive and professional case management, on all the issues that have contributed to them being homeless. The Housing Trust Fund has demonstrated this model through your Shelter plus Care program.

The City believes that simply warehousing large numbers of people in one location and providing ongoing meals to these large numbers is a failed strategy - a practice that actually enables homelessness and prevents progressive steps for the individuals. And, the difficulty in managing these large numbers creates an unnecessary and unfair burden on the surrounding communities.

Further, the Task Force has chosen to forego operational CDBG funds from the City, rather than comply with conditions set forth for such funding, in 1999 and reiterated in 2003. Those conditions are:

- The facility should serve women, children and families. The city continues to have a basic shortage of facilities and services for this segment of our homeless population; we believe this downtown location would be especially beneficial due to this facility's proximity to mass transit services, daycare facilities and hospitality jobs.
- This facility should include "safe haven" beds for fragile, mentally ill women, for which we have a crucial need.
- This facility should participate in the City's neighborhood governance process (NPU system) and secure a Special Use Permit, as many other such facilities have successfully done.

In summary, we have many agencies serving the homeless and most of them compete for the same scarce public dollars, including those from the Housing Trust Fund. As your Commission knows, prioritizing this competition is crucial in ensuring that these funds are both awarded and provided to those agencies that best serve the homeless needs of our respective jurisdictions. Based on the foregoing, it is the City of Atlanta's opinion that the Peachtree-Pine facility, as it is currently conceived and managed by the Task Force for the Homeless, should not be the recipient of these scarce funds.

We appreciate all the work that the Housing Trust Fund does and we know you must make tough decisions. Further, we apologize for any confusion we have added to that process and we commit to refining our review process, so that our Certifications in the future will be based on substance and results.

Sincerely,



Greg Pridgeon



# GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Mike Beatty  
COMMISSIONER

Sonny Perdue  
GOVERNOR

June 29, 2007

Mr. Robert S. Cramer, Jr.  
Chairman  
Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, Inc.  
477 Peachtree Street, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Re: Request for ESG Funds

Dear Mr. Cramer, Jr.:

After careful review of the subject request, I regret to inform you that the Department is unable to award funds at this time because the City of Atlanta withdrew local approval for the Peachtree-Pine programs.

Statutory and regulatory references follow:

*24 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 576, Emergency Shelter Grants, Section 576.25, Who may carry out eligible activities. ... (2) Private nonprofit organizations, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 11373(c). ...*

*U. S. Code - Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare - Chapter 119, Homeless Assistance - Subchapter IV, Housing Assistance - Part B, Emergency Shelter Grants Program - Sec. 11373, Allocation and distribution of assistance ... (c) Distributions to nonprofit organizations - ... Any State receiving assistance under this part may distribute all or a portion of such assistance to private nonprofit organizations providing assistance to homeless individuals, if the local government for the locality in which the project is located certifies that it approves of the project.*

While we are unable to grant funds at this time, we wish you every success in obtaining funds necessary to carry out your programs. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (404) 679-3170 (Atlanta metro) or (800) 359-4663 (Statewide toll free).

Sincerely,

John Bassett, Director  
State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless

/jb